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Attorney Docket No: 40129/07301 (1403)

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-24 remain pending in the present application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,394,354 to Wilz, Sr. et al. ("Wilz") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,062,474 to Reiter ("Reiter") and U.S. Pat. App. No. 2005/0197892 to Bilibin et al. ("Bilibin"). (*See 9/6/06 Office Action*, p. 2).

Wilz discloses an Internet-based system and method for routing, tracking, and delivering packages. (*See Wilz*, Abstract). Packages are provided with bar codes containing URLs and zip code information, which may be scanned by a bar code reader to effect routing and tracking of the packages. (*Id.*). Specifically, each package is logged into a database management system, located on a server, by a package login procedure. (*Id.* at col. 26, lines 16-20). In this procedure, the server is accessed by reading a predesignated URL-encoded bar code symbol specifying its address on the Internet, package related information is entered via the internet, a custom bar code symbol label encoded with a corresponding URL is created and printed, and the label is applied to the package. (*Id.* at col. 26, lines 16-31). The database management system may contain a number of fields pertaining to the package, including a package identification number (PIN), a shipper identification number, destination information, delivery instructions, etc. (*Id.* at col. 26, line 54 - col. 27, line 22). As each package is transported, its bar code is scanned at package routing subsystems through which it moves, and location information of the package is updated with each scan. (*Id.* at col. 29, lines 27-51). Package related information may be viewed by reading the corresponding URL-encoded bar

code symbols into an Internet browser program using a bar code scanner. (*Id.* at col. 24, lines 13-17).

Reiter describes a computer system for providing commercial advertisements, messages, coupons and other types of information on letters, parcels, and other written communications to a receiver of the letter. (*See Reiter*, Abstract). If a letter is ready for delivery sorting, an optical character recognition (OCR) device reads the address information and converts it to a bar code that is printed or applied to the letter. The letter is then forwarded to a bar code sorter for further sorting. (*Id.* at col. 5, lines 13-29). The bar code information is compared with demographic or other data in a database and if a match is found, one or more targeted pieces of information are printed on, applied or attached to the letter. (*Id.* at col. 5, lines 43-59).

Bilibin describes a system for determining origin and destination rating zone identifiers corresponding to parcel carriers using an origin postal code and a destination postal code as input. (*See Bilibin*, ¶ [0009]). In the system, package tracking is performed using one of a carrier tracking number and a system tracking number, which are unique numbers assigned by a carrier and generated internally by the system, respectively. (*Id.* at ¶¶ [0412]-[0414]).

Claim 1 of the present invention recites a method for providing a user with a personalized shipment system which includes the steps of "recording in the computer database tracking data based on the machine language unique label identifier and the machine language data, the tracking data including *information regarding a shipping status of the item*" and "providing the tracking data in response to a request, *wherein the tracking data is provided using only the user identifier and the destination data* included in the request."

The Examiner correctly states that Wilz fails to disclose or suggest providing tracking data by "*using only the user identifier and the destination data* included in the request," but cites Bilibin to cure this deficiency. Bilibin shows a system where a user ID is used and a package table associated with the user is displayed. (*See 9/6/06 Office Action*, pp. 3-4). However, nowhere does Bilibin state or imply that the package table is displayed to the user. The package table is merely associated with a user table containing the user ID (*See Bilibin*, ¶

[0408]). While the package table is stored on a database, there is no evidence to support a finding that Bilibin intended to provide a user with this information. Bilibin never suggests that the contents of the database are accessible to either a sender or a recipient. It is insufficient for the user ID to merely be associated with the package table; the user must be able to access tracking data "using only the user identifier and the destination data" as input.

Furthermore, in order to track the status of a package, Bilibin requires the user to enter a tracking number which is validated by searching a database server for a package record associated with the tracking number. (*Id.* at ¶¶ [0425]-[0425]). Therefore, it is clear that Bilibin relies upon the use of conventional tracking numbers. This teaching of Bilibin contradicts any suggestion that the status of the package can be provided by using only the user ID.

It is respectfully submitted that Reiter also fails to cure the deficiencies of Wilz and Bilibin. Reiter also relies on the use of conventional tracking numbers. Specifically, Reiter describes the use of a server-assigned tracking number and corresponding shipping label. (*See Reiter*, col. 10, lines 40-51). No other methods for obtaining status information are described or suggested by Reiter.

Based on the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that neither Wilz, nor Reiter nor Bilibin, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest "the tracking data including information regarding a shipping status of the item" and "providing the tracking data in response to a request, wherein the tracking data is provided using only the user identifier and the destination data included in the request," as recited in claim 1. Because claims 2-12 depend from and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

Claim 13 recites "a second shipment processing arrangement obtaining the machine language unique label identifier and the machine language destination data from the item during the shipment, the second shipment processing arrangement recording in the database tracking data based on the association of the label identifier and the destination data, *the tracking data including information regarding a shipping status of the item*" and "wherein the tracking data is provided by the second computing arrangement in response to a request, *wherein the*

tracking data is provided using only the user identifier and the destination data included in the request." Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn. Because claims 14-24 depend from and therefore include all the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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